

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

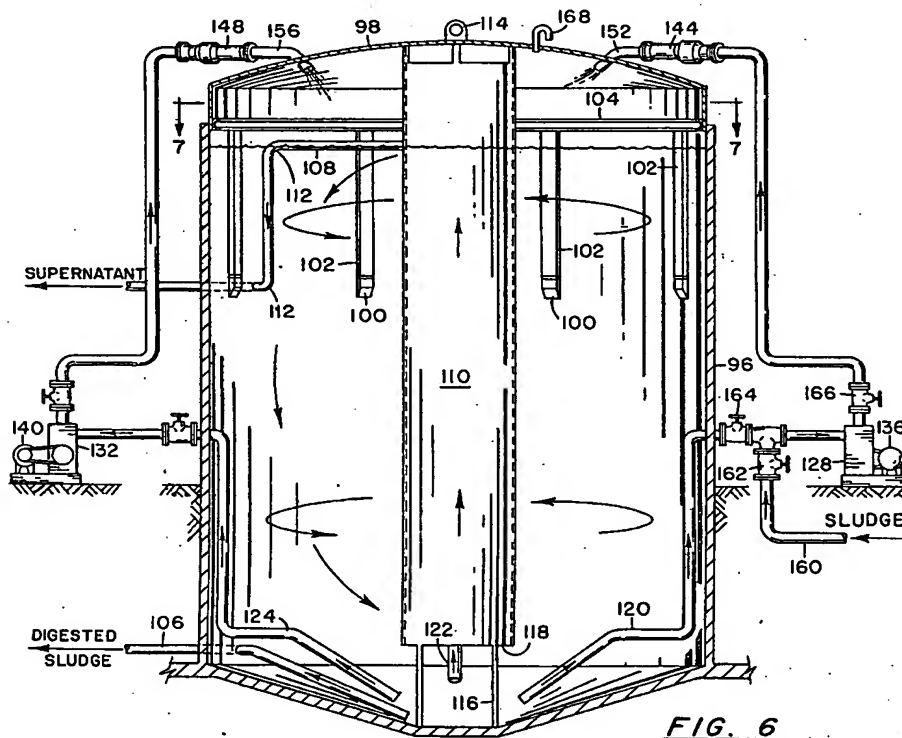
The accompanying sheet of drawings includes the requested addition of a “Prior Art” notation to figs. 1-5. This sheet replaces the original sheet that included those figures.



Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-25 will be at issue. Many of the original claims have been re-written in independent form, and one new dependent claim has been added, resulting in a total of 8 independent claims. A check for the fee for five additional independent claims and one additional total claim is enclosed. In the event additional fees are required, use of the deposit account has already been authorized.

All of the claims that were found to be directed to patentable subject matter (claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 18-21) now either are in independent form or are dependent upon patentable claims that now are in independent form. Thus, all should now be allowable.

The only rejected independent claim (claim 1) calls for two draft tubes. The examiner appears to consider aerator 150 of the Prince et al. patent (which includes the elbow 156 seen below) as one draft tube and the recirculation line 124 as the other. Under this view, any tube through which liquid can flow may be viewed as a "draft tube" within the meaning of the claims.



Claim 1 has been amended to recite that each draft tube has "an inlet and an outlet that open into the shell." Neither the aerator 150 nor the recirculation line 124 can be viewed as meeting this limitation. Thus, claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 21-24 may now be allowed.

Similarly, claim 25 and the new independent claim (claim 26) do not encompass the Prince et al. patent because neither the aerator 150 nor the recirculation line 124 has two ends that open into the shell. Thus, these claims are believed to be allowable.

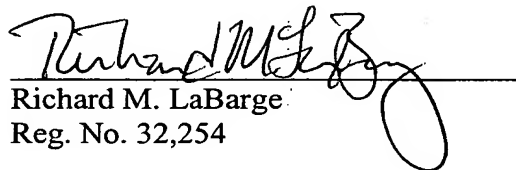
In addition to the amendments discussed above, a minor language revision was made in claim 20. The purpose of that amendment was simply to reduce the chance of the claim language being misunderstood. The change was not made for purposes of patentability, and no change in scope was intended.

The application is believed to be in form for allowance, and thus the applicants request a notice of allowance of claims 1-26.

Respectfully submitted,

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